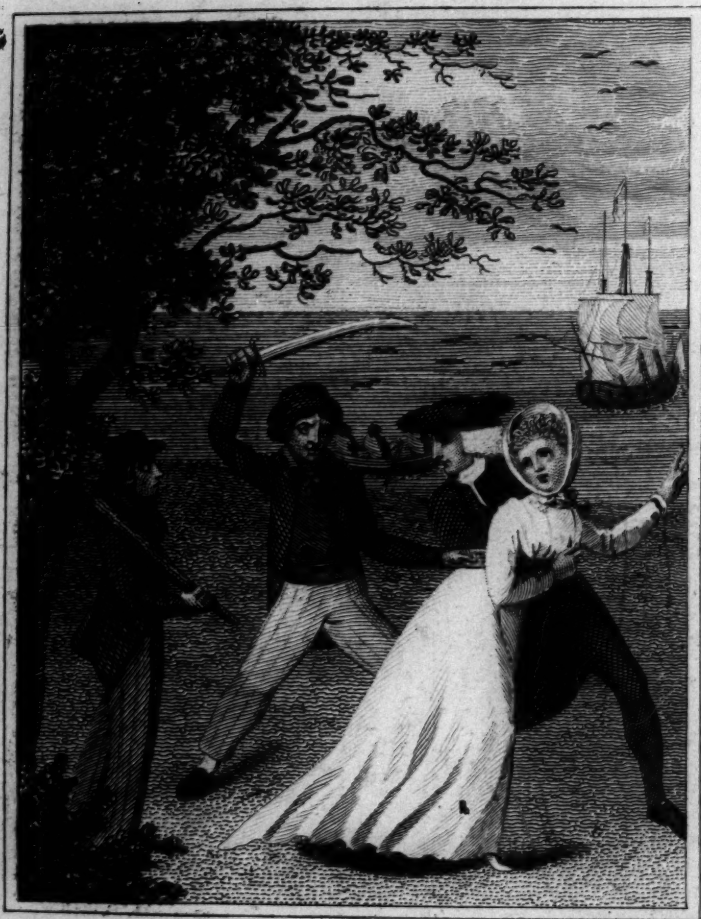


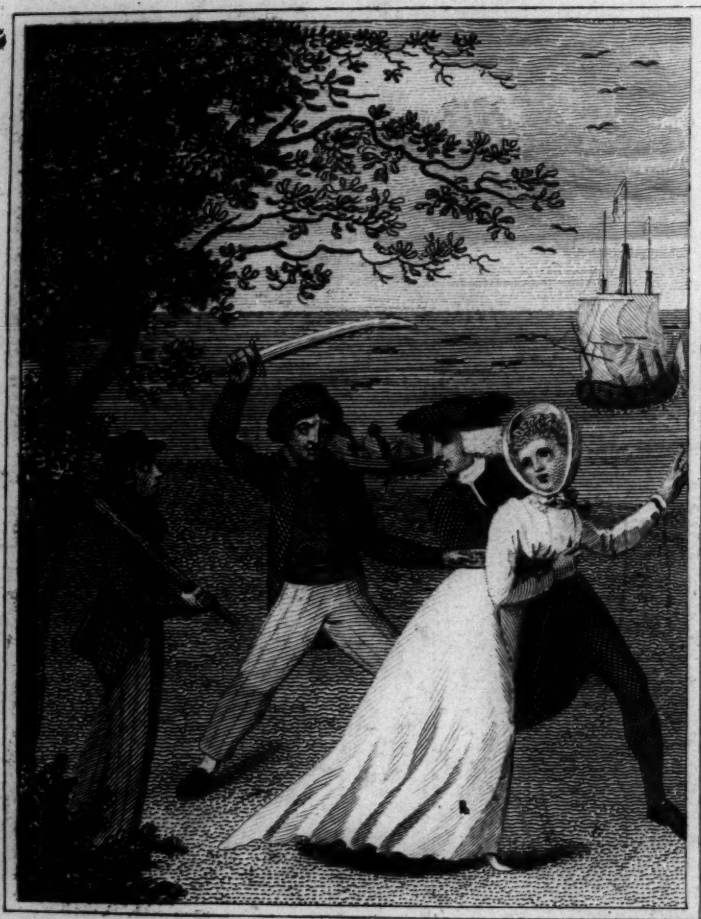


R. Rothwell del. et fecit.

**SOPHIA forced from her GUARDIAN,
by the CREW of a PRIVATEER.**

London, Published by A. Neil, April 1799, Semmers Town.

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MEMOIRS
Tho — OF *Balston*
CAPTAIN SHEL BURNE.

WRITTEN FROM AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS.

SECOND EDITION.

To which is now added,
HENRY and CHARLOTTE ;
OR,
THE FATAL SHIPWRECK.

A TALE, FOUNDED ON FACT.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY A. NEIL,
NO. 1, EVESHAM BUILDINGS,
SOMMERS TOWN.

Sold also by
CHAMPANTE & WHITROW, Jewry Street, Aldgate ;
And all other Booksellers.

1799.

[Price One Shilling.]

MEMOIRS

CAPTAIN SHELBURNE

WRITTEN FROM HIS OWN PERSPECTIVE

BY

HENRY and CHARLOTTE



THE

A TALE TOLD ON FACT

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY A. NELL,

OF 15, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON.

COMMENCED

AND

CHARLES D. NUTTALL, Jeweller, Albion;

And all other Booksellers.

1793

[Price One Shilling]

PREFACE.

THE flattering success which the first edition of these Memoirs has experienced, in the rapid sale of a numerous impression, induces the Publisher to offer a *second* to the Public. This, he trusts, will be found still more deserving of notice, by the addition of the beautiful Tale *now* annexed.

An opportunity presenting itself, in the course of the Narrative, the Editor has introduced, as a Note, (and, he trusts, not unhappily) the Methods recommended by the HUMANE SOCIETY for the Recovery of Persons apparently dead; which, in his opinion, cannot be too generally made known.

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MEMOIRS.

CAPTAIN SHELBURNE was a native of Scotland ; and, at the age of twenty-five, had lost a most amiable consort, about six weeks after she had presented him with a daughter, the first pledge of their mutual affection.

This unhappy event produced in the Captain a settled melancholy, which time seemed unable to efface ; nor could the arguments of friends, or the still more powerful advocate of a youthful constitution, naturally disposed to share and to embellish the joys of social and domestic life, prevail on him to renew those vows which death had so fatally dissolved.

His mother, who was a most exemplary character, had for some years been a widow ; and that turn for gaiety which had accelerated the death of a beloved husband, had at the same time reduced her from a state of competence to hardly a bare existence. The old lady, therefore, now lived with her son ; and she endeavoured, by the kindest offices, and the most unremitted attentions, to soothe that affliction in which she was but too well qualified to sympathize.

She represented to him the consolation she had herself derived from the possession of a child, whose affectionate regards had in time reconciled her to life, and pointed out the most flattering resemblances in their respective situations. His attention was perpetually directed to some new-discovered attraction in his little Sophia ; and though every communication of this nature gave him a temporary happiness, he never failed, on such occasions, to pay dearly in private for the reflections they as constantly produced, on the inestimable value of those charms of which he was for ever deprived.

In this state of mind he remained, on half-pay, 'till the commencement of the American contest; when his regiment was put into commission, and ordered on that service. At this period his daughter had attained her tenth year; and presented every day a stronger resemblance of her departed mother, as well in personal as in mental accomplishments. A fortnight only was allowed him to prepare for his embarkation; and frequently, in this painful interval, with a firmness which few men could boast, his manly cheek glowed with the consciousness of those tears, which the powerful operations of nature forced from their latent spring, as he pressed to his beating bosom his lovely girl, with all the heartfelt forebodings of parental apprehension: and often did her little watchful eye mark the progress of the glittering drop, and imprinting with her quivering lip the track which it had pursued, enquire the unconscious cause, in accents of evident anguish, and with looks of yet stronger expression.

From the moment in which the unwelcome summons had arrived, the good old gentlewoman
ceased

ceased not to intreat her son, that he would avail himself of the plea of indisposition, to which he was so fully entitled, as the only means of detaining him at home, where his health was alone likely to be re-established: but he disdained to listen to motives which might leave his unblemished reputation liable to the smallest suspicion, and prepared with alacrity to obey the call of honour.

Having made the necessary arrangements, he took leave of his affectionate mother, and his dear little girl, with that mournful kind of adieu, which seems to relinquish the hope of ever again beholding the objects from which the suffused eye unwillingly turns away. For a few moments he folded them in his arms; and recommending them to the protection of Heaven, with a sigh, which he vainly endeavoured to suppress, hasted from all he held dear, without once daring to look back; and fortifying himself against those sounds of anguish, which fancy presented loudly to his ear, went on board the transport which was to convey the troops across the Atlantic, and arrived

arrived safe in America, after a passage of about six weeks.

It was not 'till the departure of the Captain, that Mrs. Shelburne experienced the full force of grief. In her kind efforts to console the affliction of an adored son, she had, as it were, experienced a cessation of her own anguish; but now, far from endeavouring to repress the conflict in her bosom, she abandoned herself to sorrow, and wept almost incessantly, 'till the fatal account arrived of the memorable battle at Bunker's Hill, where so many British officers seemed cruelly selected for slaughter; when, not at all doubting that the name of Captain Shelburne was included in the fatal list, her agony increased to such a degree, that she became instantly distracted, and continued in that most melancholy of all situations upwards of six months, before she could possibly be satisfied that her son still lived; nor would she at last have been convinced, had she not received an incontrovertible evidence of his perfect safety under his own hand.

In the mean time, the Captain, whose amiable disposition, and intrepid behaviour, procured him universal esteem, had contracted the strictest intimacy with his superior officer, (Colonel Harcourt) who never failed to consult him on every affair of moment, whether of a private or of a professional nature.

The Colonel was about eight years younger than Captain Shelburne; he was likewise a native of North Britain; but having married a lady of considerable fortune in England, by whom he had two sons and a daughter, his chief residence, when at home, was in the county of Norfolk. The lady of Colonel Harcourt doated on him to distraction; and continually implored him to quit a profession so unfavourable to their loves, and the necessity of pursuing which had been happily prevented by the kindness of fortune: but the nice and delicate feelings of a soldier's honour prevented his acquiescence in a request of this nature, though his denials cost him many a pang. He communicated to his faithful friend every source of his regrets; and was strengthened in his resolution by the approbation of a heart which, though

though tender as that of an infant, was equally a stranger to fear or deceit.

For upwards of four years they constantly fought together, and neither of them had received the least hurt: about this time, however, Captain Shelburne was slightly wounded in the leg, as he went out with the Colonel to reconnoitre; but in less than three months the wound was perfectly healed.

The fears of the Captain had been awakened, by this accident, for the situation of his Sophia and her grandmother, to such a degree, as to produce a violent fever; and the Colonel, who never ceased to visit him at least once a day during his confinement, having discovered the cause of his anxiety, which a becoming delicacy had prompted him as much as possible to conceal, charged himself, on the honour of a soldier, with the care of Mrs. Shelburne and his little daughter, should that event take place, at any future period, which he doubted not he would happily escape on the present occasion. The kindness and generosity of this assurance contributed more to Captain
Shelburne's

Shelburne's speedy recovery, than all the efforts of his surgeon; the utmost exertions of whose skill had hitherto been baffled by the mental disease of his unhappy patient.

Shortly after the Captain's recovery, an expedition up the country was projected, and it was executed by those gallant officers with the most brilliant success. In their return, however, an accident occurred, which had nearly proved fatal to the Colonel. Having dispersed every appearance of an enemy, while they one day halted to relieve the soldiers from the fatigue of a long march, the Colonel, who was remarkably fond of fowling, proposed an excursion for that purpose in a neighbouring wood. Captain Shelburne and two other officers were of the party; and they agreed to divide two and two, and not to penetrate more than half a mile, or a mile at the farthest, without forming a junction at that distance, as nearly central as possible from the spot where they set out.

The Colonel and Captain Shelburne were together, and they had not proceeded more than
five

five or six hundred yards, when they were alarmed by a general discharge of musquetry. On advancing towards the spot from whence the sound proceeded, they discovered six armed savages engaged with the officers from whom they had just separated. A couple of savages likewise lay wounded on the ground; and the Colonel and Captain levelling their pieces, brought two more to the earth: the other four, terrified at this unexpected stroke, fled with precipitation towards the thicket where the Colonel was stationed; and before he or his friends could re-load, had beat him down with their musquets, and would in a few minutes have dispatched him with their tomahawks, had not Captain Shelburne and the other two officers immediately rushed to his assistance, and each of them transfixed an assailant with his bayonet.

There was now only one left; and he would have proved sufficiently formidable for the destruction of the Colonel, against whom his armed hand was already raised, had not Captain Shelburne, with an admirable presence of mind, and the most undaunted resolution, relinquished his

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musquet, and springing on the savage among the bushes, brought him instantly to the ground; while one of the other officers, who had by this time disengaged his bayonet, plunged it into the breast of the prostrate victim.

The Colonel had received two violent contusions on his head, and was otherwise much bruised in struggling with the savages. Captain Shelburne bound up his wounds, and, with the assistance of his brother officers, carried him to his tent, where the scull being examined by the chief surgeon, it was found to be terribly fractured in both places.

A party of men were now sent to search the wood, and to bring an account of the savages; and Captain Shelburne gave particular directions, that if either of them yet survived, he might be brought into camp, and, if possible, cured of his wounds, as the means of discovering whether this ambuscade had been treacherously formed: instances having often occurred, in the course of this unhappy war, where the affectation of loyalty had occasioned a fatal confidence in the unsuspect-
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ing soldier, who was frequently drawn into such situations, by those diabolical machinations, as admitted no possibility of escape.

In consequence of these orders, two of the savages, who had been only slightly wounded, were brought away, and cured in less than three weeks; but nothing of treachery appeared to have actuated these unhappy wretches, who were only out on a hunting party, when they were seduced by the hope of plunder to make the fatal attack. They seemed full of contrition for their past conduct, and grateful for the attention which had evidently been paid to their recovery; and as one of them, in particular, apparently possessed every requisite qualification for an active, faithful, and even affectionate domestic, Captain Shelburne took him into his service, and treated him with all imaginable kindness; but in less than two months, although they were kept constantly unarmed, and in general closely watched, they found means to effect their escape.

During this time, Colonel Harcourt grew rather worse than better; and the surgeon, despairing
of

of reducing the principal fracture, recommended the use of the trepan, which the Colonel vehemently opposed. Captain Shelburne perceiving that the cure would probably be as much defeated by the adoption of an operation to which his friend could by no means submit, without the most alarming apprehensions, as from the total neglect of this measure, however professionally advisable, seconded the Colonel's resolution with much apparent confidence, asserting that he had known worse fractures totally healed by a more patient process, under a far less skilful surgeon.

This declaration had its full effect, both with the surgeon and his patient: the former politely, though faintly, acquiesced in foregoing his intention, under a bare possibility, as a return for the Captain's compliment to his ability; and the latter, tranquillized by assurances so consonant to his wishes, subdued by degrees that impatience and perturbation of mind, which had greatly contributed to retard his cure.

Colonel Harcourt, in his first intervals of recollection, after expressing his gratitude to
Captain

Captain Shelburne for an attachment which he could never reward, had pressed upon him the acceptance of an instrument, in which he bequeathed him the sum of three thousand pounds, as a testimonial of his friendship. Indeed, the Captain was perpetually with his friend; and the knot of amity was, if possible, still closer drawn, as well by the dangers and sufferings they had both experienced, as from the kind consolations they had in their turns mutually received and administered.

The Colonel had been confined to his tent about ten weeks, when word was one morning brought by the officer who commanded a foraging party the preceding evening, consisting of twenty men, that a band of at least a hundred savages had chased them to within half a league of the camp, and appeared to be on the look-out for such small parties.

Captain Shelburne, who was present, expressed his indignation at being harassed by these petty assailants; and immediately ordering out a hundred men to follow unperceived at a small distance,

advanced himself, with only ten, towards the spot where they were first discovered. This was near five miles distant from the camp; and they had not proceeded far beyond the place which had been described, when upwards of a hundred savages suddenly appeared, and came on to the attack with great fury.

Captain Shelburne, with his little party, made a shew of retreating, still keeping up a running fire, 'till he observed his *corps de reserve*, when they immediately turned on the pursuers; and after leaving near thirty dead on the field, put the rest totally to flight. Captain Shelburne and his troops now continued the pursuit, and had just come up within reach of the fugitives, when a new ambuscade, consisting of at least fifteen hundred, suddenly issued forth from an adjoining wood, and in an instant cut off the foremost of their enemies, including the brave Captain; whom the few who escaped beheld fall, after a gallant resistance, amidst heaps of his slaughtered adherents.

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This melancholy catastrophe plunged the unhappy Colonel into an abyss of sorrow : he refused every species of consolation ; and was the next day seized with a fever, which continued with unabated violence for three weeks, at the end of which time his wounds were in a more dangerous way than ever, and the surgeon despaired of a recovery. Youth, and a good constitution, however, in about six months so far prevailed, that his wounds were nearly healed ; but he was advised by his surgeon, as well as by the Commander in Chief, to go to Europe with the next dispatches, for the perfect recovery of his health. An opportunity soon offered, and he arrived safely in England.

Immediately after the calamity which deprived him of his inestimable friend, Colonel Harcourt had written to Mrs. Shelburne a letter of condolence on the loss of her brave and worthy son ; in which, inclosing an order for the immediate receipt of two hundred pounds, he mentioned his intended legacy to the Captain, and his resolution of making that sum the future portion of his little daughter. But the pen of friendship was
incapable

incapable of sufficiently softening the fact. Mrs. Shelburne blessed the generous and benevolent mind that dictated the epistle : she recommended her lovely orphan to the protection of Him who is the Father of the fatherless, and died of a broken heart in a few weeks after receiving the fatal intelligence.

The Colonel had also then written to his lady, for the first time after his own misfortune, the particulars of that affair ; representing to her the amended state of his health, and his total relief from every apprehension of danger.

But a far different account had previously reached her ear. It had two months before been confidently asserted in all the public prints, that Colonel Harcourt, and his whole corps, had been surprized and cut to pieces near the banks of the Illinois, and that the scalps of the brave Colonel and his principal officers had been presented to Congress, on a day specified. This relation was the only one she ever received ; her unceasing regrets, from the first moment of his departure, had long left but a slender thread of
life

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These unhappy circumstances were in a few days made known to Colonel Harcourt, and they occasioned an immediate relapse, which for a long time seemed to render ineffectual the struggles of a vigorous constitution, and the arts of medicinal aid: their united efforts, however, once more prevailed; and he at length sufficiently recovered to visit his own country, where he determined to spend the remainder of his days.

He accordingly resigned his commission; disposed of his seat in Norfolk; and, purchasing a neat villa near the sea, in the west of Scotland, retired with his little family to this sequestered situation.

Having fixed his residence in a most delightful spot, he set out for Montrose, that he might add his adopted daughter, the child of his lamented friend, to his little household; being determined to educate her in the same stile as if she were

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properly his own. But how great was his astonishment and horror to find, that though Sophia, on the decease of her grandmother, had been taken under the protection of a worthy Minister at that place, she had been seized and carried away from her guardian, by the crew of a privateer, as they were one evening walking by the sea-side, a few days before his arrival!—[*See the plate.*]

With a new source of affliction, he returned to his solitary mansion; and endeavoured to dispel the melancholy which oppressed him, by applying for consolation to that Sacred Repository of Comfort which, though he had never affected to contemn, he had for some years but too much neglected: he took upon himself the instruction of his little ones, and made religion the basis of their education. In this delightful employ he spent most of his time; but no attention was wanting on his part for the discovery of indigence and distress; nor were any means in his power neglected for their relief.

Early

Early in the first autumn of the Colonel's residence at Harcourt House, he was one morning alarmed by the firing of guns, evidently as signals of distress. The night had been remarkably tempestuous; nor had the storm yet greatly abated, though it was near five o'clock.

He arose, and opened a window which looked towards the sea; but it was too dark to perceive any object, even close at hand, except when the pale lightning gleamed faintly on the swelling surges, or the momentary flash, which preceded the distant cannon's melancholy roar, directed to the scene of horror, which appeared too remote from land to admit the possibility of that aid which the situation evidently demanded. The rain descended in torrents, the wind seemed to rock the solid foundation of the edifice, and the waves roared tremendous as they approached and retreated from the breach.

In this situation the Colonel had remained full half an hour, incessantly putting up ejaculations for the souls of those to whom he despaired of giving any corporeal assistance, when the wind
blew

blew with redoubled violence for the space of ten minutes, the thunder roared dreadful, and almost incessantly, and the quick flashes of lightning gave perpetually an instantaneous though confined view of the agitated element; in the mean while guns of distress were every moment fired, and the awful sounds seemed every time less distant from the shore.

This last circumstance was sufficient to awaken the hope of saving a fellow-creature in the feeling bosom of the Colonel. He immediately called up all his servants; and, ordering some of them to alarm the neighbouring cottagers, proceeded with the rest of his domestics to the sea-side.

The storm had now ceased, though the waves still continued to run high; and as the day had just begun to dawn, the wreck was discernible about half a league from shore, where the vessel had gone to pieces on a rock.

Though little or no prospect of success appeared, as all on board must of necessity have perished, (a small part only of the ship's hull remaining

maining above water when it was first discovered, and that every minute diminishing) he nevertheless dispatched a large boat, with six men, whom he directed to reconnoitre the foundered vessel, and, if possible, to take up any of the crew who might happily be floating on parts of the wreck.

In a quarter of an hour they reached the melancholy spot; but could only discover a small trunk, and two or three dead bodies, floating on the water: they took these into the boat, and conveyed them to shore, where every prescribed means for the restoration of life was in vain applied; death had secured his prey.

The rising sun having by this time greatly extended the view, Colonel Harcourt perceived, apparently about half a mile beyond the wreck, a small skiff making towards it; and fearful lest it should contain some of the crew, who might meet a similar fate by approaching too near, he jumped into the boat, and with his six men immediately went off to their assistance; but, a few minutes before he could get sufficiently near to warn them of the impending danger, their boat

had struck the rock, and was in a moment dashed to pieces !—It seemed to have contained about a dozen persons ; some of whom went under the wreck, and never again appeared.

The Colonel was, however, fortunate enough to take up three men and a woman ; but he had given over the remainder for lost, when he observed at a small distance two more persons floating on the water, (a gentleman and a very young lady) folded in each other's arms : these, likewise, he happily secured ; but life seemed wholly extinguished.

As all the men but the latter were very good swimmers, they were little worse for the accident ; the two females, therefore, and the gentleman last taken up, engaged the whole of his attention the moment he reached land. They were immediately conveyed to his house, where the process recommended by the Humane Society was unremittingly pursued for near two hours, before any signs of life appeared in the gentleman and the evident object of his regard : the lady who had been first discovered, was restored
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in about twenty minutes. At length, however, the latent principle was called forth into action; and a skilful physician, who had now arrived, declared them entirely out of danger*.

He

* As the subject is interesting to the community and public at large, and one with which every person of humanity ought to be acquainted, it may not be thought improper to subjoin the methods of treatment, found by the Society to be most successful on these occasions:

I. The body should not be rolled on the ground, or over a barrel, nor lifted up by the heels, or be any other way roughly handled or violently shook; but be removed to a convenient place, lying as on a bed, with the head a little raised, in as natural a position as possible.

II. The body, well wiped with a cloth, should be placed in a warm bed or blanket; but not too near a large fire. Bottles of hot water should be laid to the bottoms of the feet, joints of the knees, and under the arm-pits. A warming-pan, moderately heated, or hot bricks wrapped in cloths, should be rubbed over the body, particularly along the back. The natural warmth of a healthy person, especially a child, lying close

He recommended that they should be kept as quiet as possible for the remainder of the day; and, after explaining to the Colonel the mode of treatment necessary to be pursued 'till the next morning,

close to the body, has been found very efficacious. The room should be kept open and airy, with few persons in it. The shirt of an attendant, or skin of a sheep fresh killed and warm, may be used to advantage.—Should the accident happen in the neighbourhood of a warm bath, brew-house, bake-house, glass-house, salt-ern, soap manufactory, or any fabric where warm lees, ashes, embers, grains, sand, water, &c. can be easily procured, it will be very proper to place the body in any of these, moderated to a degree of heat very little exceeding that of a healthy person.

III. The body being placed in one or other of the above advantageous situations, various stimulating means should be immediately employed. The most efficacious are—Blowing with force into the lungs, by applying the mouth to that of the patient, closing at the same time the nostrils—Throwing the smoke of tobacco up the fundament into the bowels, by means of a clyster-pipe or fumigator; a pair of bellows may be employed 'till the others can be procured—Rubbing the belly, chest, back, and arms with a coarse cloth,

or

morning, said he should then make them an early visit, though he hoped they would have little occasion for his assistance.—The Colonel himself attended them the whole day; and the moment they

or dry salt, so as not to rub off the skin; or with a flannel dipped in brandy, rum, or gin—Applying spirits of hartshorn, volatile salts, or the like, to the nostrils, and rubbing them on the temples frequently—Tickling the throat with a feather, to excite a propensity to vomit; and the nostrils also with a feather or snuff, to provoke sneezing. The body should at intervals be shaken, and varied in its position.

IV. If there be any signs of returning life, such as sighing, gasping, twitching, beating of the heart, return of natural warmth or colour, a spoonful of water may be administered, to try if the power of swallowing be returned; if it be, a spoonful or two of warm wine, or brandy and water, may be given to advantage, but not before.

Early bleeding has been found pernicious, and even fatal; it is not *always* applicable, though it may sometimes be employed, by a person of skill, to remove or prevent symptoms of inflammation.

they became sensible, he comforted the father and his daughter, (for so he had discovered them to be) with assurances of their reciprocal safety; but he begged them to compose themselves 'till the next day, when they should certainly see each other the first moment either of them was able to rise.

The physician arrived about eight in the morning: his patients had slept well, in consequence of the opiates he had prescribed; and the gentleman, in particular, seemed to think he should be able to get up, though he was still weak and languid.

After regretting his inability to recompense either his hospitable preserver, or the gentleman

The before-mentioned methods of restoring life are applicable to various other cases of apparent sudden death; whether from hanging, apoplectic and convulsive fits, cold, suffocation by damps or noxious vapours, proceeding from coal mines, confined air of wells, cisterns, caves, or from the must of fermenting liquors.

who

who so kindly attended to assist his benevolent exertions, he intreated that he might at least know the names of his benefactors, though he could hardly flatter himself with the hope of ever making them any substantial return.

“Colonel Harcourt is too generous”—said the physician: he could add no farther, before his patient, with a deep sigh, fell back on his pillow, in a state of insensibility. In a few minutes he recovered, and begged pardon for his weakness; but intreated that he might be immediately permitted to rise, and make his acknowledgments to the Colonel, with whose generosity he was perfectly acquainted.

The physician withdrew, in astonishment, to acquaint Colonel Harcourt with this extraordinary circumstance; but that benevolent gentleman, being satisfied with the promising state of his more particular guests, had just stepped to visit the three men who were also preserved, and whom he had the day before directed to be supplied with every necessary.

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In the mean time, the young lady, impatient to behold her beloved father, had already risen, and was now locked in his yet feeble arms, when the Colonel, on the representation of his medical friend, approached the apartment.

“Thy Shelburne, and his hapless daughter!” said the former, as the Colonel entered; and they knelt to their preserver.

“’Tis impossible!” exclaimed Colonel Harcourt, but I will indulge the idea!” And he embraced them in his arms as they arose, and wept over them with all the bitterness of anguish. In a few minutes, lifting his eyes to Heaven, after a cursory survey of the well-known though much altered features, he exclaimed, “Thy ways, O my Creator, are unsearchable; the mysteries of thy Providence inexplicable; and thy goodness without limitation!—It is, it is my friend, and I am not yet deprived of every blessing!” He again folded them to his bosom, and again wept over them with joy.

When

When their agitated spirits were sufficiently composed, Colonel Harcourt begged his friend to recapitulate the miraculous circumstances by which Heaven had been graciously pleased to renew their felicity in his preservation.

It appeared, from Captain Shelburne's relation, that after he had been seen to fall, in consequence of the wounds he received, he was unconscious of any farther occurrence 'till he found himself in the hut of a savage, where he was treated with great care and tenderness by the owner, whom he soon recognized to be the very person he had formerly taken into his service.

This grateful savage led one of the bands which composed the fatal ambuscade; and seeing Captain Shelburne engaged, whom he instantly recollected, flew to his assistance, and saved him from being tomahawked by the furious Indians, almost at the expence of his own life: he, however, conveyed the Captain safely to his hut, whose wounds he perfectly healed in somewhat less than three months.

This savage possessed great humanity : he had preserved, on a former occasion, the lady of a rich planter, with her infant daughter, whose husband had been cruelly slaughtered by his brutal countrymen ; and though the child died a few weeks after the fatal event, the mother, who was extremely beautiful, had remained near twelve months under the disinterested protection of this hospitable man, and still composed part of his family. As the Captain and this lady were in some measure fellow-sufferers, they consoled each other with the most cordial friendship ; nor was the heart of either conscious that it possessed any susceptibility of a more tender impression.

The lady was a native of England ; and though her parents had for some years been no more, she ardently wished to resign her breath (too nearly exhausted with perpetual sighs for the melancholy loss of an adored husband) in the same country as she had received it. Captain Shelburne, likewise, unceasingly regretted the want of probability that he should ever again see his aged mother, and his lovely Sophia ; though he was by no means unmindful that he had not yet satisfied
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the claims of his country on that life which had engaged in its service, the war still continuing, his wounds being quite healed, and his health and strength almost re-established.

As the British troops had, however, for some time quitted those parts, the worthy and hospitable savage represented in very just and striking colours the difficulties his guests would have to encounter in passing through the enemy's country; and advised them to embark for Europe in the first foreign vessel they should find on the Mississippi, whither he would himself undertake to escort them.

They accordingly set out for the banks of this celebrated river, which they reached in about eight days; where they engaged with the master of a small Spanish vessel, going round to Pensacola, and took leave of their Indian friend.

On their arrival at this place, which had but a short time before surrendered to the arms of Spain, they took up their residence in the house of one of the principal merchants, whose name
was

was well known to the lady, and who had only sworn allegiance to the conquerors for the preservation of his landed property, which was very considerable, in West Florida, intending to quit for ever that part of the world, as soon as he could conveniently dispose of it to advantage; being firmly attached to the British Government, and determined, if possible, to end his days in England.

By this gentleman Captain Shelburne and the lady were most kindly entertained upwards of four months, when he procured them a passage in a French ship, bound for Marseilles, in France; but the vessel was taken on its voyage, by an English privateer, from Liverpool, and carried into Antigua.

The circumstance of falling into the hands of his own countrymen, did not operate much in favour of Captain Shelburne or his fair companion; who were plundered of great part of their property not less effectually, though perhaps somewhat less avowedly, than if the capture had been made by their most inveterate enemies,

enemies. Indeed, Captain Shelburne's property was very inconsiderable; but his amiable fellow-sufferer had a vast quantity of plate, jewels, and apparel, which the generous savage had faithfully preserved from the wreck of her husband's fortune, (accepting only a very small portion of the plate and jewels, though the whole were repeatedly offered him) with India bonds, and other valuable instruments, to the amount of at least fifteen thousand pounds; these were all contained in a small trunk, which was broke open the very first night, and plundered of plate and jewels to a very considerable amount; nor could the strict enquiry which the captain of the privateer, who had formerly been a most notorious smuggler, affected to make, discover the delinquent, or procure any return of the spoil.

Not chusing to risque the loss of the remainder of this valuable property, Captain Shelburne and the lady went on shore at Antigua; rejecting with indignation the offered passage to England in the privateer, which sailed as soon as the Captain had disposed of the French ship and cargo.

Ten weeks after, the Crocodile sloop of war touched at Antigua, in its way to Ireland; the commander of which, being Captain Shelburne's particular friend, agreed to convey him and the lady to Cork.

They accordingly embarked immediately; but they had only proceeded a few leagues from the coast, when the Crocodile was attacked, soon after dark, by a privateer, under French colours, which had mistaken her for an English trading vessel. After the first broadside, the Captain of the privateer, discovering his error, immediately struck his flag, and pretended the whole was a mistake. But the commander of the sloop was not to be thus easily duped; he thoroughly comprehended the whole of the proceeding, and instantly ordered the captain of the privateer on board; sending out, at the same time, his own lieutenant, and two other officers, thoroughly to examine the vessel; when it was soon discovered that the commander was one of those traitorous and piratical villains who had so greatly infested us during the American war, fighting under different commissions, and plundering all that came in their way.

way. He had no less than six ransomers on board, together with a most beautiful young lady, who had only escaped ruin by the melancholy deprivation of her senses, which his brutality had occasioned, and which yet would not have secured her from this diabolical villain, had not his Lieutenant, (who, indeed, only wished to reserve her for himself, as he intended to seize the command the first opportunity) under the affectation of humanity, protested he never would consent to witness the perpetration of so gross an enormity.

The miscreant was immediately put in irons, and the intended victim of his purposed villany brought on board the sloop, where she was soon convinced of her perfect safety.

The invader of all the rights of humanity turned out to be the identical person who had connived at the embezzlement of the fair widow's property in the West Indies; and the young lady, whose destruction he had meditated, proved to be the daughter of Captain Shelburne, his dear, his adorable Sophia!

The

The young lady recovered but slowly from the consequences of the ill treatment she had experienced; and when they arrived at Cork, which was not 'till three weeks after this affair, she was full two months before she got the better of her indisposition. In the mean time, as the Crocodile was only to victual at this place, previous to a cruize in the Bay of Biscay, Captain Shelburne and his two fair companions took their passage in a trading ship bound for Chester.

The second day after they sailed, a violent storm arose, which carried them out of their course, towards the coast of Scotland; where they continued to be driven about, at the mercy of the winds, for three days successively; 'till at length, the vessel having sprung a leak, which the best efforts of the crew were unable to keep under, and having at the same time lost both her masts, after repeatedly firing guns of distress, without any prospect of relief, Captain Shelburne, with his lovely charge, and eight other passengers, determined not to tempt their fate, by continuing longer on board, and having in vain endeavoured to prevail on the master to quit his ship,

ship, (who declared he would much rather go down with her than face the owners after her loss) they got into the long-boat about midnight, and made for the shore—with what success, has already appeared.

Captain Shelburne having concluded the narrative which comprehended these events, he presented his daughter, with the unfortunate lady, (who had, in her haste and confusion in quitting the vessel, left the trunk, which contained her whole fortune, upon deck, though she had carefully brought it up some time before, that she might not in the last extremity leave it behind) to Colonel Harcourt, and begged to place them under his protection, 'till he might himself be enabled to provide for them to his wish. In the mean time, he expressed his intention of setting out for England as soon as possible, that he might report to the Commander in Chief (who was then in London) the circumstances which had occasioned his absence from the service, and express his readiness again to return to his duty.

Colonel Harcourt very readily engaged to provide for his amiable guests, and begged that Captain Shelburne would make no apology for sharing with him in the enjoyment of his fortune; and though he could not but approve of his resolution to wait on the Commander in Chief as soon as convenient, he strongly opposed the offer of any future service; on the contrary, he intreated him to resign his commission; and represented the happiness he had began to promise himself in the society of a person so dear to him, which would be wholly cut off, should he refuse to make Harcourt House the seat of his residence, with his lovely daughter and the fair companion of his voyage.

This generous offer did not fail to draw forth expressions of gratitude from the latter, whose tears he was scarce able to check. She acknowledged herself destitute of a single known friend in England; having wholly relied for the hope of a comfortable subsistence on the fortune she had, by the intervention of Providence, been prevented from carrying with her.

The

The distress of the unhappy lady, on this occasion, made a very sensible impression on Captain Shelburne; and the moment he left Harcourt House, in his progress to London, he discovered, that sympathy for the misfortunes of the amiable young widow, had created an affection for her person; nor had the tenderness and solitude of the Captain to his fair partner in affliction, failed to produce a similar effect in his favour.

In short, they had for some time been deeply enamoured with each other: but the pure heart of the distressed fair one shrunk from the idea of a second affection, her first love having so cruelly terminated; and the brave Captain, who had long persisted in the determination of continuing a widower, would probably never have suspected his own breast of harbouring the gentle passion, had not the friendless situation of the fair mourner, and the reverse of fortune which he had been a melancholy witness of her experiencing, excited in his bosom an interest in her future welfare, and a determined resolution to share with her those ills of life which she seemed perpetually to sustain.

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On his return, therefore, from London, (where his apology proved more than sufficient, the Commander in Chief having presented him to his Majesty, by whom he was most graciously received) he scrupled not to open his heart to Colonel Harcourt, and to solicit his advice on the propriety of such an engagement, under his limited circumstances; though he acknowledged his love had increased, if not originated, since the lady was found to be destitute of that fortune which, though it might possibly have increased their comfort, could hardly have added to the felicity he believed he should yet experience with her, were he capable of inspiring her with an equal affection.

The Colonel gave his warmest approbation to Captain Shelburne's attachment; and assured him, that he need not be under the smallest apprehension about circumstances, as (to say nothing of his own readiness, as well as ability, to make up any defect of that nature) the lady possessed a very ample fortune of her own, the trunk in which it was contained being the only article saved from the wreck—a circumstance which did
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not appear 'till after his departure for the metropolis.

“ And now, my dear friend,” said the Colonel,
“ let me be equally candid and ingenuous. When
“ I undertook to be the guardian of your match-
“ less daughter, I considered her, from your re-
“ presentations, as merely an infant ; and Heaven
“ is my witness, that it was my unalterable in-
“ tention she should no other way have been dis-
“ tinguished from my own children, than by the
“ possession of a name at least equally dear. I was
“ surprised, therefore, to find in your little Sophia,
“ as you fondly called her, (parent as I myself
“ was) a blooming virgin of seventeen. Will
“ you, Captain, forgive my presumption ! I have
“ dared to hope, notwithstanding the difference
“ of a few years—little more than your own with
“ the dear object of your present regards—should
“ the angelic daughter favour my vows, I shall
“ not, in her father, meet an obstacle to my
“ wishes ?”

It may seem unnecessary to add, that the Captain was not backward in giving his consent to

so desirable an union. The Colonel, in a short time, secured the affection of Sophia; whose father was equally successful in obtaining that of the amiable widow. Both parties were united on the same day; and for many years composed one family at Harcourt House, where they experienced a much greater portion of felicity than usually falls to the lot of mortals in this state of imperfect bliss.



HENRY

HENRY and CHARLOTTE;

OR,

THE FATAL SHIPWRECK.

NOT many years since, there was a youth at Westminster school, whom we shall call Henry. He was equally esteemed by the masters for the brilliancy of his talents, and beloved by his school-fellows, for the various excellent qualities of his mind, and the sweetness of his disposition. Before he had risen very high in school, he conceived a passion for a young lady in the neighbourhood, eminently beautiful, and differing from him in character only, as the natural delicacy and softness of her sex added a charm to every perfection of her lover. From the many interviews they had had, the flame which at first fired his bosom, soon became mutual, and they already indulged themselves in romantic ideas of celebrating their nuptials, ere they scarcely knew what love was.—

Two

Two years had now elapsed since they had declared their flame. Henry had long pleaded his love to his dear Charlotte, with all the force a sincere passion could inspire. Marriage was what they both looked up to, but obstacles dimmed the prospect. His father having long observed the close intimacy which subsisted between our hero and this amiable girl, and fearful of the consequence, (namely, marriage, for she had no fortune), resolved to separate them in the speediest manner possible; accordingly, he purchased him an Ensigncy in a regiment just going abroad, and paying little regard to his son's disapprobation of a military life, sent him off to Jersey. This precaution, however, proved fruitless; for Henry, as soon as he was acquainted with his father's cruel determination, having obtained Charlotte's full consent, had their marriage consummated unknown to any of his friends; and as his regiment was detained in England, by unforeseen delays, much longer than was expected, he found means to pass the greater part of his time in her company. The time being at length arrived, when Henry was to set out, we shall pass over the tender scene which took place at their parting; suffice

suffice it to say, that never was a picture of grief displayed in more natural and affecting colours than this interview exhibited. With difficulty he dissuaded her from the earnest desire she had of accompanying him; but he knew the dangers of the voyage, and the difficulties a woman is exposed to in a camp, too well, to comply with her request. All he could say to console her with was, an assurance of the most speedy return he could obtain.

Before he had been six months in Jersey, he received the news of her being brought to-bed of a son. Since she had last seen her dear Henry, her constancy had been put to the trial by a thousand pressing calamities. Just after he had set sail, she felt a severe shock in the loss of a kind and affectionate mother, her only surviving parent, and was now left an helpless orphan, exposed to all dangers, deprived of every comfort of life, and nearly destitute of all its necessaries. Her mother, being the widow of a Colonel, had, with some economy, made shift to support herself and daughter in a genteel manner on her pension; but this ceased at her death, and poor Charlotte, who,
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either from the too great indulgence or the pride of her parents, had not been brought up to any business, was now reduced to the desperate alternative of either starving, or maintaining herself by the most wretched trade her sex is acquainted with. Happily, an old school-fellow of Henry's, learning the distressed state of her circumstances, flew to her assistance with all the ardor which the thought of relieving his friend's dearer half could inspire him with, and saved her from sufferings she no ways merited.—Shortly after this timely rescue, she received the following letter from her Henry :

“ My dearest Charlotte,

“ Judge my happiness on hearing that Heaven has blessed us with a token of our love ! That he may resemble his mother in every thing, is the only boon I now crave for him.—But I change my joy to a note of sorrow. The pernicious effects of this climate have inflicted on me an illness, which I fear I shall never get over. Life, however, is a burden to me, whilst thou art absent ; nor could I have held it out thus long, but that I support myself on the prospect of that bliss, which will, I hope, crown the rest of our years, should I ever return to thee. I live, I breathe but for thee, and fear not death, but as it shall snatch me from thee. But there is a place, a paradise, where we shall one day meet—to part no more !—Farewel ! May Heaven shed its choicest blessings on thee and thy infant, and render you both happy, as it made thee good.”

Equally

Equally affected at the severity of her Henry's disorder, and charmed with the sincerity of his passion, she resolved to set sail in quest of him !— Accordingly, supplied by the kindness of his friend with every thing requisite for her voyage, she went on board a transport bound for the place of her husband's destination. But the bitterest scene of her affliction remained as yet unaccomplished : all those flattering images of joy, which the thought of quickly seeing her Henry had presented to her, were suddenly overclouded by a storm, which intercepted them in their passage. After every exertion of the crew had proved vain, they were driven to the last resource, and fired the signal of distress. This was instantly answered by another ship, which had long been near, but, from the darkness that reigned around, without the knowledge of either. It was, however, too late to save their vessel : the leak that had so long distressed them, now took in so fast, that it was impossible to keep her above water, and just as the other ship made up to her, she sunk !—Her long-boat, stowed full, was now approaching the side of the ship, when a cruel wave snatched it under, and Charlotte, with her dear infant close clasped

clasped to her breast, floated at the mercy of a stormy sea!—It is here necessary to inform the reader, that Henry, having procured leave of absence, was returning in the other ship. He had long fixed his eyes on the boat, struck with the situation of his unknown wife. Unable any longer to be a witness to such a scene of distress, without taking an active part in it, he plunged in, at the hazard of his own life, and catching her as she rose on the back of a billow, bore her to his own ship's boat. But what were his feelings, when he beheld the face of his Charlotte!—Her benumbed arm had dropt its tender charge. The horror of her distress had deprived her cheeks of their roseate hue, and plundered her features of all their beauties. He pressed her to his breast in the agonies of despair, and strove to recall her affrighted spirits to their gay abode. She at length awoke almost from the shades of death; but seeing her Henry's face, shrieked astonishment, and sunk into his arms—a breathless corpse!

»» FINIS. ««

